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HYMN  
OF  
ST. CASIMIR

d 37



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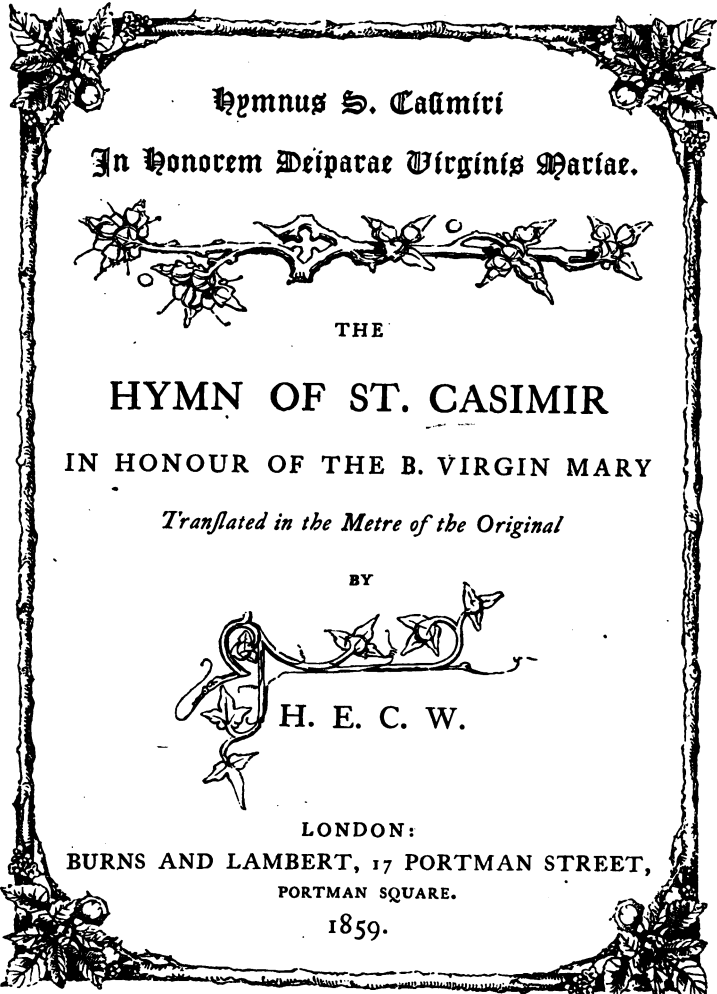


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THE  
HYMN OF ST. CASIMIR.







Hymnus S. Casimiri

In Honorem Deiparae Virginis Mariae.



THE

HYMN OF ST. CASIMIR

IN HONOUR OF THE B. VIRGIN MARY

*Translated in the Metre of the Original*

BY



H. E. C. W.

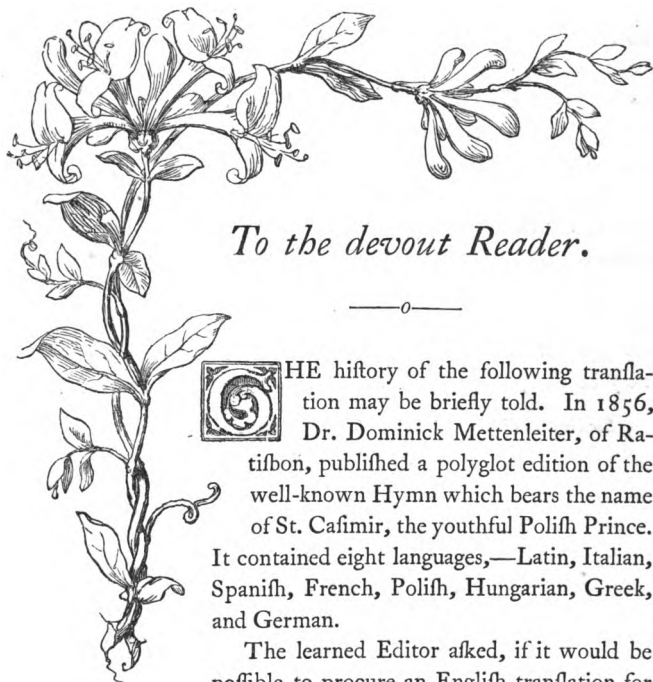
LONDON:

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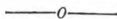
1859.







*To the devout Reader.*



HE history of the following translation may be briefly told. In 1856, Dr. Dominick Mettenleiter, of Ratibon, published a polyglot edition of the well-known Hymn which bears the name of St. Casimir, the youthful Polish Prince. It contained eight languages,—Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, Polish, Hungarian, Greek, and German.

The learned Editor asked, if it would be possible to procure an English translation for a future edition? All the other versions were in the metre of the original; so that any additional ones had to follow the same rule. This made a new English translation necessary.

The second edition of the little polyglot is going to press in Germany, with this additional version, and a Portuguese one kindly promised to be procured by the Queen of Portugal. It

has, however, been thought well to publish this very imperfect version here, side by side with the original, for such as may wish to recite the Hymn in their own language.

In the text of the German edition there are variations from that usually printed in our Prayer-books. Of these many do not affect the meaning, and such occur in stanzas 8, 11, 13, 35, 47, 52, 53: others do, in stanzas 10, 26, 40, 41, 59. In every instance, the text of the polyglot has been printed and translated.

May this little work assist in promoting devotion to the Blessed Mother of God, especially during her month of May; and may it procure for its author a share, greater than he or it may be thought to deserve, in the prayers of those who use it.

*London: Feast of St. Casimir, March 4, 1859..*



## HYMN OF ST. CASIMIR.

### DECAS I.

1.

**C**MNI die  
Dic Mariae  
Mea laudes anima ;  
Ejus festa,  
Ejus gesta,  
Cole devotissima.

2.

Contemplare  
Et mirare  
Ejus celsitudinem ;  
Dic felicem  
Genitricem,  
Dic beatam Virginem.

### DECADE I.

1.

**S**ING, sing, each day,  
A tuneful lay,  
My soul, to Mary's glory :  
Her feasts employ  
With pious joy,  
To con her wondrous story.

2.

Admiring gaze,  
Where Angels raise  
To her their upturned glances :  
Pronounce her blest,  
Whose virgin breast  
A mother's bliss entrances.

3.

Ipfam cole,  
Ut de mole  
Criminum te liberet;  
Hanc appella,  
Ne procella  
Vitorum superet.

4.

Haec perfona  
Nobis dona  
Contulit coelestia:  
Haec regina  
Nos divina  
Illuſtravit gratia.

5.

Lingua mea,  
Dic trophaea  
Virginis puerperae!  
Quae inſiſtūm  
Malediſtūm  
Miro tranſfert germinē.

3.

Then ſerve her truly,  
That ſhe may duly  
From ſinful burden free thee:  
Invoke her loud,  
And blaſt and cloud  
Of vice's ſtorm ſhall flee thee.

4.

This Lady bland,  
With laſh hand,  
Has dealt out Heaven's treaſure:  
Queen, who the light  
Shed on us bright  
Of grace that knows no meaſure.

5.

Give forth, my tongue,  
The triumph-ſong  
Of her the Virgin-Mother!  
Who could reverſe  
One Adam's curſe,  
By bearing us *Another*.

6.

Sine fine  
 Dic reginae  
 Mundi, laudum cantica ;  
 Ejus bona  
 Semper sona,  
 Semper illa praedica.

6.

Unending lays  
 Sound forth her praise,  
 The Queen of all created :  
 Till note on note  
 Through Heaven float,  
 Each with her goodness freighted.

7.

Omnes mei  
 Sensus ei  
 Personate gloriam !  
 Frequentate  
 Tam beatæ  
 Virginis memoriam.

7.

My senses, all  
 Your powers enthral,  
 To touch these chords of jubilee !  
 By oft repeating  
 Some ancient greeting,  
 Again remembered happily.

8.

Nullus certe  
 Tam disertæ  
 Exstat eloquentiæ,  
 Qui condignos  
 Promat hymnos  
 Ejus excellentiæ.

8.

No lips so sweet,  
 No tongue so fleet,  
 May earth boast of possessing,  
 Which words can knit  
 In verses fit,  
 To bear so high our blessing.

9.

Omnes laudent,  
 Unde gaudent,  
 Matrem Dei, Virginem;  
 Nullus fingat  
 Quod attingat  
 Ejus celsitudinem.

10.

Sed necesse,  
 Quod prodesse  
 Piis constat mentibus,  
 Ut intendam,  
 Quod impendam  
 Me ipsius laudibus.

*Ave Maria.*

DECAS II.

11.

Quamvis sciam  
 Quod Mariam  
 Nemo digne praedicet,  
 Tamen vanus  
 Et infanus  
 Est qui illam reticet.

9.

Let each, alone  
 Come with his own  
 Peculiar tribute laden;  
 But let none dream  
 He grasps his theme—  
 God's Mother, purest Maiden.

10.

What grace imparts  
 To pious hearts,  
 Is law of love, compelling  
 My heart: and I  
 Must live and die  
 My praise and love in telling.

DECADE II.

11.

Although I know,  
 None here below  
 Can speak of her becomingly;  
 Yet dull in mind,  
 In judgment blind,  
 Who stands by dumb, unlovingly.

12.

Cujus vita  
Erudita  
Disciplina coelica,  
Argumenta  
Et figmenta  
Destruxit haeretica.

12.

Her life, so fraught  
With lessons taught  
By heav'nly erudition,  
The figments crude  
Of error's brood  
Hurls baffled to perdition.

13.

Hujus mores  
Tanquam flores  
Exornant Ecclesiam ;  
Actiones  
Et sermones  
Miram praestant gratiam.

13.

Her virtue's bloom  
Its rich perfume  
Throughout the Church diffuses;  
Her word and deed  
Are plants which bleed  
Balsamic, healing juices.

14.

Evae crimen  
Nobis limen  
Paradisi clauferat.  
Haec dum credit  
Et obedit,  
Coeli claustra referat.

14.

If Eve's revolt  
The golden bolt  
Drew fast of Heaven's portal;  
She, better starred,  
By faith unbarred  
The gates of life immortal.



15.

Propter Evam  
 Homo faevam  
 Accepit sententiam;  
 Per Mariam  
 Habet viam,  
 Quae ducit ad patriam.

16.

Haec amanda  
 Et laudanda  
 Cunctis specialiter;  
 Venerari,  
 Praedicari  
 Eam decet jugiter.

17.

Ipsa donet,  
 Ut, quod monet  
 Natus ejus, faciam:  
 Ut, finita  
 Carnis vita,  
 Lactus hunc aspiciam.

15.

A sentence dire,  
 From God's just ire,  
 Bore man for Eve's transgression;  
 Till Mary led  
 The spendthrift's tread  
 Back home from sin's oppression.

16.

Then loud to blefs her,  
 With love addrefs her,  
 Cease our poor hearts, O, never!  
 But praise, admire,  
 And glorify her,  
 For ever and for ever!

17.

Prevail her prayer,  
 That I may bear  
 Her Son's sweet yoke most faith-  
 That when with life [fully;  
 Ends carnal strife,  
 I may behold Him blissfully.

18.

O cunctarum  
Foeminarum  
Decus atque gloria!  
Quam electam  
Et evectam  
Scimus super omnia.

18.

O glory, pride,  
Of maid or bride!  
Of woman type most splendid!  
Placed, chosen vase,  
Where with thy rays  
None save thy Son's are blended.

19.

Clemens audi,  
Tuæ laudi  
Quos instantes conspicias.  
Munda reos,  
Et fac eos  
Donis dignos coelicis.

19.

Indulgent hear,  
Who to thine ear  
Sing praise so true and earnest;  
For sinners purged,  
Thy plea be urged,  
Whereby Heaven's gifts thou ear-  
[nest.

20.

Virga Jesse,  
Spes oppressæ  
Mentis et refugium,  
Decus mundi,  
Lux profundi,  
Domini sacrarium.

20.

O blessed shoot  
From Jesse's root,  
Hope, refuge of minds weary!  
The earth's delight,  
The abyfs's light,  
The Lord's own sanctuary.

*Ave Maria.*

## DECAS III.

## 21.

Vitae forma,  
Morum norma,  
Plenitudo gratiae !  
Dei templum,  
Et exemplum  
Totius iustitiae !

## 22.

Virgo falve !  
Per quam valvae  
Coeli patent miseris ;  
Quam non flexit  
Nec allexit  
Fraus serpentis veteris.

## 23.

Generosa  
Et formosa  
David regis filia !  
Quam elegit  
Rex qui regit  
Et creavit omnia.

## DECADE III.

## 21.

Of life the rule ;  
Of virtues, school ;  
All overflowing graciousness !  
God's Temple ample,  
And bright example  
Of never-failing righteousness !

## 22.

Hail, then, O Maiden !  
Through whom true Eden  
Its gates to man unfolded ;  
The serpent's coil  
Within its toil  
Thy virgin foot ne'er folded.

## 23.

Child, noble, fair,  
Beyond compare,  
Of Sion's olden sovereigns !  
By His choice blest,  
Whose sole behest  
Created all, and governs !

24.

Gemma decens,  
 Rosa recens,  
 Castitatis lilium!  
 Castum chorum  
 Ad polorum  
 Quae perducis gaudium.

24.

Most precious gem!  
 Rose-budding stem!  
 O lily of pure faintlines!  
 Chaste virgin-trains  
 To blisful reigns  
 Leads up thy queenly statelines.

25.

Actionis  
 Et sermonis  
 Facultatem tribue;  
 Ut tuorum  
 Meritorum  
 Laudes promam strenue.

25.

Oh, make my reach  
 Of act and speech  
 But like their aim unbounded;  
 Thy many claims  
 To glorious names  
 Shall far and long be founded.

26.

Opto nimis,  
 Ut inprimis  
 Des mihi memoriam,  
 Qua decenter  
 Et ferventer  
 Tuam cantem gloriam.

26.

But first, oh, hear  
 My earnest prayer,  
 That memory so avail me,  
 That I, thy servant,  
 Though staid, yet fervent,  
 Ne'er find thy praises fail me.

27.

Quamvis muta  
Et polluta  
Mea sciam labia;  
Praesumendum,  
Nec silendum  
Est de tua gloria.

27.

These lips are mute,  
Which sins pollute,  
With shame my heart confesses;  
Yet dares to raise  
Its wreath of praise  
To crown thy golden tresses.

28.

Virgo gaude,  
Omni laude  
Digna et praeconio;  
Quae damnatis  
Libertatis  
Facta es occasio.

28.

Virgin, rejoice,  
Whom every voice  
Should join in glorifying;  
Whose first sweet look  
The prison shook,  
Where hopeless man lay fighting.

29.

Semper munda  
Et foecunda,  
Virgo tu puerpera.  
Mater alma  
Velut palma  
Florens et fructifera.

29.

The Virgin's flower,  
The Mother's dower,  
Thy gifts are to eternity;  
The palm-tree shedding  
Its fruits, yet budding,  
Is type of thy maternity.

30.

Ejus flore  
 Et odore  
 Recreari cupimus,  
 Cujus fructu  
 Nos a luctu  
 Liberari credimus.

*Ave Maria.*

DECAS IV.

31.

Pulchra tota  
 Sine nota  
 Cujuscumque maculae,  
 Fac nos mundos  
 Et jucundos  
 Te laudare sedule.

32.

O beata,  
 Per quam data  
 Nova mundo gaudia!  
 Et aperta  
 Fide certa  
 Regna sunt coelestia.

30.

Its fragrant showers  
 Of scattered flowers  
 Sooth griefs that, light, depress us:  
 While faith believes,  
 Its fruit relieves  
 From woes that deep oppress us.

DECADE IV.

31.

Fair, oh, yea, fairest!  
 For thou sole bearest  
 No blot or spot of sinfulness;  
 Blithe as the child,  
 As undefiled,  
 Sing we thy praise in cheerfulness.

32.

Blest! before whom  
 The world's deep gloom  
 Was turned to joyous lightness;  
 Thy faith the morn,  
 Which opes, scarce born,  
 The gates of Heaven's brightness.

33.

Per te mundus  
Laetabundus  
Novo fulget lumine,  
Antiquarum  
Tenebrarum  
Exutus caligine.

34.

Nunc potentes  
Sunt egentes  
Sicut olim dixeras :  
Et egeni  
Fiunt pleni,  
Ut tu prophetaveras.

35.

Per te morum  
Nunc pravorum  
Relinquantur devia :  
Doctrinarum  
Perversarum  
Pulsa sunt praeftigia.

33.

For when thy birth  
Gave joy, the earth  
With radiant vest adorning,  
It cast away  
The dark array  
Of ages spent in mourning.

34.

As thou hast told,  
The strong and bold  
Have sunk to want and weakness;  
As thou hast said,  
Now filled with bread  
Are they who pined in meekness.

35.

The crooked path,  
From sin to wrath,  
Through thee is now deserted;  
The fatal harms  
Of error's charms  
By thee have been averted.

36.

Mundi lux  
 Atque fluxus  
 Docuisti spernere :  
 Deum quaeri,  
 Carnem teri,  
 Vitiis resistere,

37.

Mentis cursum  
 Tendi sursum  
 Pietatis studio,  
 Corpus angi,  
 Motus frangi,  
 Pro coelesti praemio.

38.

Tu portasti  
 Inter casti  
 Ventris claustra Dominum  
 Redemptorem ;  
 Ad honorem  
 Nos reformans primum.

36.

This world so fleeting,  
 Our hearts though cheating,  
 We scorn by thine example ;  
 Try God to find,  
 The body grind,  
 On vice's brood to trample ;

37.

Still upwards ever  
 Each weak endeavour  
 Of willing minds directing ;  
 The flesh subduing,  
 And, Heaven wooing,  
 To law wild thoughts subjecting.

38.

In thee the Word,  
 Thy chaste womb's lord,  
 Begins His saving mission ;  
 And thou, for us,  
 Retrievest thus  
 Our forfeited condition.



39.

Mater facta  
Sed intacta  
Genuisti filium,  
Regem regum  
Atque rerum  
Creatorem omnium.

40.

Benedicta,  
Per quam victa  
Hostis est versutia :  
Destitutis  
Spe salutis,  
Datur indulgentia.

*Ave Maria.*

DECAS V.

41.

Benedictus  
Rex invictus,  
Cujus Mater crederis.  
Increatus,  
Ex te natus,  
Nostri salus generis.

39.

Thou art a Mother,  
Yea as none other  
Bore son, before or later ;  
Thine, King of kings,  
And of all things  
Created, sole Creator !

40.

O thou most blest !  
Through whom repressed  
Is every hostile malice ;  
And, at hell's brink,  
Who hopeless sink,  
May quaff salvation's chalice.

DECADE V.

41.

That King fought rest  
Upon thy breast  
To whom earth cries 'Hosanna.'  
The Uncreate  
From thee took date,  
Our race's healing manna !

42.

Reparatrix,  
Consolatrix  
Desperantis animae !  
A preffura,  
Quae ventura  
Malis est, nos redime.

42.

The path who smootheft,  
The pangs who sootheft,  
Of souls the most despairing !  
Make woes that rush  
The bad to crush,  
Pais us, though finners, sparing.

43.

Pro me pete,  
Ut quiete  
Sempiterna perfruar ;  
Ne tormentis  
Comburentis  
Stagni miser obruar.

43.

So pray for me,  
That I may be  
The heir of peace eternal ;  
And never know  
Of torture's woe  
In pool of flames infernal.

44.

Quod requiro,  
Quod suspiro,  
Mea sana vulnera ;  
Et da menti  
Te poscenti  
Gratiarum munera,

44.

For this I cry,  
For this I sigh,  
Be thou my soul's physician !  
Thy gifts of grace,  
Poured down apace,  
Requite my soul's petition !

45.

Ut sim castus  
Et modestus,  
Dulcis, blandus, sobrius,  
Pius, rectus,  
Circumspectus,  
Simultatis nescius ;

46.

Eruditus  
Et munitus  
Divinis eloquiis,  
Timoratus  
Et ornatus  
Sacris exercitiis ;

47.

Constans, gravis  
Atque suavis,  
Benignus, amabilis,  
Simplex, purus  
Et maturus,  
Patiens et humilis ;

45.

So make me bashful,  
Chaste, meek, and watchful,  
Sober, without asperity ;  
Upright and pious,  
Ne'er to the bias  
Yielding of insincerity.

46.

God's Word my store,  
Whence virtue's lore  
Come like a shield well burnished !  
While by His fear,  
Alms, fasting, prayer,  
My soul's true gems be furnished !

47.

Be I grave, steady ;  
Be sweet, and ready  
To show all loving-kindness ;  
Be simple, pure,  
Resigned, mature,  
And humble e'en to blindness.

48.

Corde prudens,  
Ore studens  
Veritatem dicere,  
Malum nolens,  
Deum colens  
Pio semper opere.

49.

Esto tutrix  
Et adjutrix  
Christiani populi;  
Pacem praeſta,  
Ne moleſta  
Nos perturbent ſaeculi.

50.

Salutaris  
Stella maris  
Summis digna laudibus,  
Quae praecellis  
Cunctis stellis  
Atque luminaribus.

*Ave Maria.*

48.

Be prudent-hearted,  
My lips have parted  
As truth alone demandeth;  
All evil shun,  
The true path run,  
By deeds which God command-  
[eth.

49.

Do thou reſiſt!  
Do thou aſſiſt!  
As Chriſtian people need it;  
When, from the wear  
Of earthly care,  
We aſk for peace, oh, ſpeed it!

50.

No tongue can raiſe  
Too high thy praiſe,  
O ſaving ſtar of ocean!  
Pale by thy light  
Is planet bright,  
Or meteor's brilliant motion.

## DECAS VI.

## 51.

Tua dulci  
Prece fulci  
Supplices, et refove;  
Quidquid gravat  
Vel depravat  
Mentes nostras, remove.

## 52.

Virgo gaude,  
Quod de fraude  
Daemonis nos liberas,  
Dum in vera  
Et sincera  
Carne Deum generas.

## 53.

Illibata  
Et dotata  
Coelesti progenie;  
Gravidata,  
Nec fraudata  
Flore pudicitiae.

## DECADE VI.

## 51.

Cherish, sustain,  
The suppliant train  
In thy sweet prayer confiding!  
Whatever pains,  
Whatever stains,  
Prevent in us abiding!

## 52.

Virgin, be glad,  
Who from the bad  
Arts of the Tempter freest;  
As from thine own  
Blood, flesh, and bone,  
Incarnate, God thou see'st.

## 53.

Though Virgin bright,  
Thou hast the right  
Of richest claims maternal;  
Though Mother true,  
To thee is due  
The virgin's bloom eternal.

54.

Nam quod eras,  
 Perseveras,  
 Dum intacta generas,  
 Illum tractans  
 Atque lactans,  
 Per quem facta fueras.

55.

Commendare  
 Me dignare  
 Christo tuo Filio :  
 Ut non cadam,  
 Sed evadam  
 De mundi naufragio.

56.

Fac me mitem,  
 Pelle litem,  
 Compesce lasciviam.  
 Contra crimen  
 Da munimen  
 Et mentis constantiam.

54.

Of what thou wast  
 Nought from thee passed,  
 When Gabriel's tongue address'd  
 O'er Him thou bendeſt, [thee;  
 Him feedeſt, tendeſt,  
 Who with thine own life bleſſed  
 [thee.

55.

Commending, bear  
 To Chriſt my prayer,  
 Thy Son beloved ſo purely ;  
 That, from the world  
 In ſhipwreck whirled,  
 I reach the ſhore ſecurely.

56.

Oh, make me mild  
 And undefiled,  
 Avoiding ſtrife and quarrel ;  
 Conſtant and ſtrong  
 To do no wrong,  
 Or yield to thought immoral.

57.

Non me liget,  
Nec fatiget  
Saeculi cupiditas ;  
Quae indurat  
Et obscurat  
Mentes fibi subditas.

58.

Nunquam ira,  
Nunquam dira  
Me vincat elatio :  
Quae multorum  
Fit malorum  
Frequenter occasio.

59.

Ora Deum,  
Ut cor meum  
Sua fervet gratia ;  
Ne antiquus  
Inimicus  
Seminet zizania

57.

That neither bound,  
Nor bowed and ground,  
I be by greed of riches ;  
Which hearts o'erthrown  
Turns quite to stone,  
Or blinding fore bewitches.

58.

Of vengeful ire,  
Deed, nor desire,  
Permitted be to enthrall us ;  
Nor proud disdain,  
Oft in whose train  
A host of evils follows.

59.

Pray God to shield  
My soul's poor field,  
Nor graces weigh, nor number ;  
For th' ancient foe  
His tares will sow,  
If He, our Watchman, slumber.

60.

Da levamen  
Et juvamen  
Tuum illis jugiter,  
Tua festa  
Sive gesta  
Qui colunt alacriter.

*Ave Maria.*

60.

Oh, grant relief  
From toil and grief,  
To all who perseveringly  
Thy feasts observe,  
Thy deeds preserve  
In memory's depths endearingly.



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Great New Street and Fetter Lane.



## MUSIC FOR THE HYMN.

(1 or 3 voices, ad libitum.)

*Allegretto. p*

I & 2 SOPRANI

ORGANO.

BASSO.

Sing, sing, each day, A tune - ful lay, My

foul, to Ma - ry's glo - ry: Her feasts em-ploy With

pi - ous joy To con her won-drous sto - ry.

*rit.*

*pp*

H. E. C. W.

4 MY 59







